

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00959 192140Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 PM-05 SS-15 SP-02
NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 DLOS-09
/063 W

-----029560 192143Z /75

O R 191844Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3682
CINCPAC HONOLULU
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
OSD/ISA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 959

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP
SUBJ: TRAVEL OF COLONEL Y. ELSTAK, COMMANDER OF
SURINAM ARMED FORCES

1. EMBASSY WAS INFORMED SEPT 19 OF FOLLOWING TRAVEL
PLANS OF COLONEL YNGW ELSTAK, COMMANDER OF SURINAM
ARMED FORCES, WHO IS GOING TO SEOUL FOR OFFICIAL VISIT
AT INVITATION OF ROK GOVERNMENT:
SEPT 22 3:05 PM ARRIVE MIAMI ALM 975
23 3:55 PM ARRIVE HONOLULU NW 021
28 1:20 PM DEPART HONOLULU KE 001

2. REQUEST DEPARTMENT OF STATE ALERT IMMIGRATION AND
CUSTOMS MIAMI TO FACILITATE ENTRY AS VIP.

3. COL. ELSTAK IS A BORN SURINAMER WHO WAS EDUCATED
IN INDONESIA AND HOLLAND AND WAS A CAREER OFFICER IN
THE DUTCH ARMY UNTIL HE OPTED TO RETURN TO SURINAM ON
INDEPENDENCE IN 1975 TO BECOME COMMANDER OF NEWLY-
FORMED SURINAM ARMED FORCES. ELSTAK HAS COMMAND AND
STAFF EXPERIENCE IN NATO AND IS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH
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US AND NATO FORCES IN EUROPE. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THIS
WILL BE HIS FIRST TRIP TO FAR EAST SINCE HE LEFT
INDONESIA AFTER WORLD WAR II. ALTHOUGH HIS ARMED
FORCES ARE MINISCULE BY WORLD STANDARDS THEY FORM
AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN AND AROUND
SURINAM. ELSTAK IS WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS US AND HAS
TAKEN AN ACTIVE PART IN SURINAM'S ADHERENCE TO OAS

AND INTER AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD.

4. IN EMBASSY VIEW, US INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED BY A LOW-KEY SHOW OF INTEREST ON THE PART OF CINCPAC. ELSTAK AND WIFE WILL BE STAYING AT WAIKIKI SHERATON, WHERE HE COULD BE REACHED BY PHONE. OFFER OF A VISIT TO CINCPAC HEADQUARTERS FOR AN HOUR OR SO, COURTESY CALL ON CINC IS HE IS PRESENT, AND SHORT BRIEFING ON PACIFIC AFFAIRS, INCLUDING US ROLE IN ROK AND JAPAN, WOULD SERVE TO SET THE STAGE FOR HIS VISIT TO KOREA.

5. FYI: INTEREST OF ROK IN SURINAM IS TWO FOLD: SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF KOREANS AND BOATS ARE BASED IN PARAMARIBO IN LUCRATIVE SHRIMP FISHING AND PROCESSING INDUSTRY, AND ROK DESIRES TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN PRO-ROK ATTITUDE HERE TO COUNTER MOVES WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE BY NORTH KOREA TO OPEN AN EMBASSY IN SURINAM, WHERE PRC ALREADY HAS SIZEABLE ESTABLISHMENT.

6. FURTHER FACT TO BE NOTED IS THAT TWO (KNOWN) SURINAMERS WHO WERE IN KOREAN WAR AS PART OF DUTCH BATTALION LOST THEIR LIVES IN ACTION THERE AND ARE MEMORIALIZED IN WAR MONUMENT HERE.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE EVENTUAL REPORT OF ANY CONTACT WITH ELSTAK. ZURHELLEN
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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